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Addendum

Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

1. At its 10th and 11th meetings, on 19 and 20 March, the Commission considered agenda item 9, entitled "Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016".

2. For its consideration of item 9, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2014/2-E/CN.15/2014/2);

(b) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse (E/CN.7/2014/3);

(c) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2014/4);

(d) Report of the Executive Director on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation

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towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/CN.7/2014/7);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on promoting coordination and alignment of decisions between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (E/CN.7/2014/11);

(f) Report of the Executive Director on responding to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among drug users (E/CN.7/2014/12);

(g) Report of the Executive Director on strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative (E/CN.7/2014/14);

(h) Drug policy provisions from the international drug control conventions (E/CN.7/2014/CRP.5);

(i) Outreach to new stakeholders in the field of alternative development (E/CN.7/2014/CRP.7);

(j) Reports by intergovernmental organizations on drug control activities (E/CN.7/2014/CRP.9);

(k) Draft guidelines on drug prevention and treatment for girls and women (E/CN.7/2014/CRP.12).

3. Introductory statements on agenda item 9 and presentations were made by the Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch and the Chief of the Drug Prevention and Health Branch. The Chief of the Sustainable Livelihoods Unit and the Chief of the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch also made introductory statements.

4. A statement was made by the observer for Greece (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine). Statements were made by the representatives of Thailand, China, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, India, the United States of America, Canada and Afghanistan.

5. Statements were also made by the observers for Portugal, Norway, Switzerland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Ghana, as well as by the observers for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. The observers for the International Harm Reduction Association, the Vienna NGO Committee and the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America also made statements.

A. Deliberations

6. Speakers reaffirmed their firm commitment to the goals and targets of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the high-level review, in view of the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016. Some speakers noted that the special session would provide an opportunity

to examine best practices on demand and supply reduction and on international cooperation.

7. Reference was made to General Assembly resolution 68/197, in which the General Assembly requested the Commission, as the organ with the prime responsibility for drug control matters, to engage in the preparatory process for the special session, including by presenting proposals from its fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions through the Economic and Social Council, in support of that process. Several speakers noted that, in view of that mandate, the Commission should serve as the preparatory body for the special session.

1. Demand reduction and related measures

8. Speakers described national efforts to improve the coverage and quality of drug prevention and the treatment of drug dependence, as well as harm reduction interventions for the prevention of HIV, hepatitis C and other health and social consequences experienced by drug users, including in prison settings. It was emphasized how those policies and interventions, when based on scientific evidence and human rights, were effective, cost-efficient and essential components of a well-functioning drug control system. Several speakers reported the development of strategies based on public health principles, which provided drug treatment as an alternative to criminal sanctions. Some speakers called on Member States to strengthen their efforts in data collection, particularly in view of the 2016 special session.

9. The challenge posed by poly-substance use, including the combination of licit and illicit substances and the emergence of new psychoactive substances and other substances not under international control, was mentioned. Some speakers highlighted the importance of promoting the use and exchange of best practices and of the development and implementation of quality standards in prevention, early detection and intervention, risk and harm reduction, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration and recovery.

10. It was noted that the economic austerity experienced by some countries could have implications for the levels of drug use in society, which, at the same time, could impact the provision of services. The need to undertake more efforts in order to increase the availability of evidence-based information, training and technical assistance on demand reduction interventions was noted as well.

2. Supply reduction and related measures

11. The importance of a multidisciplinary, balanced and integrated approach, encompassing demand and supply reduction and international cooperation, was highlighted, as was the principle of common and shared responsibility in tackling the world drug problem.

12. Speakers called for the collection of additional data on amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular methamphetamine. The need to maintain controls over precursor chemicals was reiterated and reference was made to changes in national legislation made by States in order to address the diversity of chemicals used in the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances.

13. The need for closer cross-border cooperation, including through regional initiatives, in the investigation of trafficking was noted. States were encouraged to apply the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption in addressing illicit drug trafficking.

14. It was noted that trafficking by sea continued to represent a serious threat. Speakers referred to the challenges of porous maritime borders, while others provided information about ongoing and new initiatives to strengthen maritime cooperation.

15. Concern was expressed by some speakers regarding the application of the death penalty to drug-related offences.

16. Some speakers welcomed the increasing interest in alternative development and the growth in the number of countries implementing alternative development programmes to achieve a sustainable reduction in illicit crop cultivation.

17. A number of speakers noted that alternative development should be based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, with the support of international cooperation, including through the sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

18. Some speakers mentioned the importance of monitoring mechanisms, with a view to improving the design and implementation of alternative development projects.

19. Speakers acknowledged and welcomed the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and commended the efforts of Peru, Thailand and other Member States in promoting related programmes.

20. Some speakers emphasized the need for continued financial support for alternative development programmes, noting that they were part of a comprehensive drug control strategy, and requested UNODC to continue to provide technical assistance through alternative development programmes.

21. It was proposed that alternative development should be one of the key issues for discussion at the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.

3. Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation

22. Several speakers highlighted the importance of inter-agency, regional and international cooperation, using formal agreements and informal networks, to exchange information to counter money-laundering.

23. Speakers noted the increasing use of new techniques by organized criminal groups, including trade-based money-laundering, and emphasized the continued need for training to enhance capacity to counter money-laundering.

24. A number of speakers referred to the importance of law enforcement and judicial cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels in countering the global drug challenge, including through the conclusion of memorandums of understanding on mutual legal assistance and extradition, the harmonization of domestic legislation, the sharing of information and the exchange of experiences.